The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the invention to read as follows:

--INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD THAT UTILIZES STORED INFORMATION ABOUT A MOUNTABLE DEVICE--.

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Please substitute the paragraph located on page 110 at lines 9-11 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--The ink-jet printer of the first embodiment has a configuration ROM like the one shown in Fig. 31. This format complies with the format shown in Fig. 14.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 23-41, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 6-8, 10-12, and 15-22 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication control means for connecting to an external device so as to

allow communication; and

memory means for storing information about a device mountable on said information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by the external device via said communication control means,

wherein the device mountable on said information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the memory area is specified based upon information held in an Instance Directory of the configuration ROM.

7. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory means stores, in the memory area, information indicative of the device mountable on said information processing apparatus and a device that has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus.

8. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication control means for connecting to an external device so as to allow communication;

acquisition means for accessing a memory area of the external device via said

communication control means and acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device; and

display control means for controlling a display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external apparatus.

10. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said acquisition means accesses an Instance Directory stored in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard to acquire information about the device that is mountable on the external device.

11. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said acquisition means acquires information indicative of the device that is mountable on the external device and indicative of whether a device has already been mounted on the external device, and

said display control means displays the device that is mountable on the external device based on the information acquired by said acquisition means, and identifiably displays a device that has already been mounted on the external device.

12. (Amended) An information processing system comprising:

communication control means for connecting to a plurality of information processing apparatuses so as to allow communication;

holding means for holding, in a first information processing apparatus, information about a device mountable on the first information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by another information processing apparatus via said communication control means;

acquisition means for allowing a second information processing apparatus to acquire the information held in the memory area via said communication control means; and

display control means for controlling a display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means in the second information processing apparatus,

wherein the device mountable on the first information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the first information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the first information processing apparatus.

15. (Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the memory area is an area specified based upon information held in an Instance Directory of the configuration ROM.

16. (Amended) The system according to claim 12, wherein said holding means holds, in the memory area, information indicative of a device mountable on the first information

processing apparatus and a device that has already been mounted on the first information processing apparatus.

17. (Amended) The system according to claim 16, wherein

said acquisition means acquires information indicative of the device mountable on the first information processing apparatus and a device that has already been mounted on the first information processing apparatus, and

said display control means displays a device that is mountable on an external device based on the information acquired by said acquisition means, and identifiably displays a device that has already been mounted on the external device.

18. (Amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus that includes communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, and holding means for holding information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by the external device via the communication control means, said method comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting the information about the device mountable on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, via the communication control means in accordance with a request from the external device via the communication control means,

wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus

includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

19. (Amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus that includes communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, said method comprising:

an acquisition step of accessing a memory area of the external device via the communication control means and acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device; and

a display control step of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external apparatus.

20. (Amended) A method of controlling an information processing system connected to a plurality of information processing apparatuses by communication control means so as to allow communication, said method comprising:

a holding step of holding, in a first information processing apparatus, information about a device mountable on the first information processing apparatus in a memory

area that is accessible by another information processing apparatus via the communication control means;

an acquisition step of allowing a second information processing apparatus to acquire the information in the memory area via the communication control means; and

a display control step of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step in the second information processing apparatus,

wherein the device mountable on the first information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the first information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the first information processing apparatus.

21. (Amended) A storage medium storing a control program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that includes communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, and holding means for holding information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by the external device via the communication control means, the method comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting the information about the device mountable on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, via the communication control means in accordance with a request from the external device via the communication control means,

wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

22. (Amended) A storage medium storing a control program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that includes communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, the method comprising:

an acquisition step of accessing a memory area of the external device via the communication control means and acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device; and

a display control step of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external apparatus.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 17, 2002. Claims 1-22 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8, 12, 18-22 are in